STATE OF CALIFORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY

RONALD REAGAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
1416 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

November 27, 1968

Mr. B. K. Jones
1714 S. Beverly Glen Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Mr. Jones:

This is in reply to your letter of November 17, 1968 which inquires about flows and water quality of the East Fork of the Kaweah River in the Mineral King area.

You refer to a report for the Three Rivers Soil Conservation District (1963) which quotes this Department as stating "in a normal year the flows of all the forks (of the Kaweah River) are below the desirable minimum discharges". We apparently do not have a copy of this report, but can confirm that the statement attributed to us is true. The waters of the Kaweah River are diverted and re-diverted through a series of hydroelectric power facilities resulting in very low flows on most of the river until the water passes through Powerhouse No. 2 which is the most downstream of the S.C.E. facilities. Below Powerhouse No. 2 the water is allowed to flow in the river channel.

We have initiated studies of the Edison Company's Kaweah development in connection with the Federal Power Commission relicensing of the project. The current license expires on August 7, 1974. Our studies are aimed at developing recommendations for the improvement of fish and wildlife conditions in the project area. These recommendations will be submitted to the FPC and hopefully will be made terms of the new license which will be issued.

The National Park Service has issued a special use permit to the Edison Company for the development within Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. The permit stipulates that certain releases shall be made below the diversions on the Middle and Marble Forks. Our current study relative to FPC Project No. 298 may show that different flows are desirable, and we will recommend higher flows to the FPC if this appears desirable.

Your second question asks for a description of any reports on the water quality and quantity for fish and wildlife in the East Fork of the Kaweah. We have made no such reports to date nor do we know of any. We have, however, worked with the Edison Company on treatment techniques for control of algae.

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You also asked whether or not there have been studies of the effect of reductions in the water quality and quantity caused by the development of the Mineral King area. We have not yet studied this matter, but expect to do so in the near future.

We understand the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration and the U. S. Geological Survey are currently engaged in sampling streams in the Mineral King area to determine their water quality characteristics prior to any development. We understand a report on this study will be published next month. You should be able to obtain a copy by writing to the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, 620 Central Avenue, Alameda 94501. ✓ 19 Dec 68

Our State Water Resources Control Board has set tentative standards for waste discharge in the Mineral King area that probably will be adopted shortly.

Your fourth question regards the potential effect of development in the Mineral King Game Refuge on game. This Department has not made specific studies nor prepared reports regarding the effects of this development on wildlife. We can say, however, that in an extensive development such as the Disney proposal, considerable wildlife habit would be lost and wildlife would suffer from human encroachment. In addition, the deer hunting that the U. S. Forest Service now permits in its game refuge would undoubtedly have to be curtailed because of the influx of people to the Disney development.

I hope we have provided you with the information you desire.

If you require additional detailed information regarding our interests in the Mineral King area, I suggest you contact Mr. Chet Hart, our Regional Manager for Region 4. His address is:

Mr. Chet Hart
Department of Fish and Game
Region 4
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93726

Sincerely,

J. C. Fraser
JCF

J. C. Fraser, Chief
Water Projects Branch

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